



NEWSLETTER

of the *WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY*

Volume 21, Numbers 2 & 3

Les Ferge, Editor

November 1994

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD DECEMBER 3 IN MADISON

The next meeting of the Wisconsin Entomological Society will be held on Saturday, December 3 at Russell Labs on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Russell Labs is located at the corner of Babcock and Linden Drives (see map on back page) and parking is available in lots adjacent to the building. The UW Insect Research Collection (third floor) will be open at 1:00 PM, and the formal part of the meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. The program will feature our annual photo salon. Any members having slides of entomological subjects are encouraged to participate. Each entrant may submit up to five slides, labelled with the subject and name of photographer. The slides will be evaluated by the audience, which will vote to select the winning entries. The winner's name will be added to the William E. Sieker Memorial Plaque, and a print of the first place slide is added to the display in the Entomology Department office, and is also awarded to the photographer. In addition, one or two short talks are tentatively scheduled. Ample time is available for anyone else wishing to make a presentation.

Also on the agenda is the election of officers for 1995. The current officers are: Gene Drecktrah, President; Phil Pellitteri, Vice President; Carol Ferge, Secretary; and Bob Borth, Treasurer. Due to extremely heavy workloads, Gene and Bob are unable to continue serving in their respective offices. Nominations or volunteers would be most welcome. These may be offered at the meeting, or discussed in advance with Phil Pellitteri. Contact Phil at the Department of Entomology, 1630 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706, or phone (608) 262-6510.

PRAIRIE INVERTEBRATE MEETING TO BE HELD

The fourth annual Prairie Invertebrate Conference will be held on Tuesday, December 6 at the Riveredge Nature Center. The purpose of this conference is to share current knowledge about invertebrates and their role in the prairie ecosystem, as well as to foster ongoing studies about these most important organisms. For information on registration, contact Andy Larsen, Riveredge Nature Center, 4458 W. Hawthorne Drive, P. O. Box 26, Newburg, WI 53060, or phone (414) 675-6888.

The Newsletter of the Wisconsin Entomological Society is published three times a year, at irregular intervals. It is provided to encourage and facilitate the exchange of information by the membership, and to keep the members informed of the activities of the organization. Members are strongly encouraged to contribute items for inclusion in the Newsletter. Please send all news items, notes, new or interesting insect records, season summaries, research requests, and report any address changes to the editor: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562.

NEWS FROM THE DIAGNOSTIC LAB

Phil Pellitteri

It is that time of year to sit back in the Diagnostic Lab and do a year end "damage" assessment of the insect life of 1994. Bugs were up.

The season started very dry. Alfalfa weevil, common stalk borer, and pea aphid numbers were low for the farmers. We saw the May flush of carpenter ants (*Camponotus*) and Eriophyid mite galls on maple, plum and ash.

The rains in mid-June brought out European Earwigs in big numbers. Populations have spread as far west as Grant county and as far north as Door County. These little "goats" may be the most despised insect I know. People have very little tolerance when they find them. We had a moderate population of both white and yellow (rusty) marked tussock moths (*Orgyia lucostigma* and *O. antiqua*), which people are inclined to think are the first coming of the gypsy moth. We also had high populations of the Zebra caterpillar (*Melanchra picta*).

There was some good news and some bad news on the exotic insect area. There were just under 10,000 gypsy moths captured from 41 counties. The numbers are down but the number of counties with counts above 50 moths is 11. The real scary news is that the State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture reported almost 34,000 Japanese beetles captured in traps this year. Over 25,000 came from Rock County. With that high a number surviving the 1993-94 winter, we cannot count on our climate to rescue us. These two insects will be very difficult for the average homeowner to tolerate and I sure hope I can retire before we get our first statewide outbreak of either of these two critters.

As August arrived so did the German yellowjacket workers foraging on food. The warm summer pushed the colonies, and the scavenging they are famous for started rather early. The above average moisture gave us high numbers of book lice, millipedes, and little foreign grain beetles (*Ashverus advena*) in and around the home. There were also a number of Barklice swarms on tree trunks that caught people's attention this summer.

Under the odd occurrence section, we did receive one four inch live scorpion from a laundry room in Madison - an unexpected traveler from a Jamaican vacation; a female black widow spider in grapes from Woodman's grocery store; and an odd host preference switch with the Euyonymous caterpillar doing big time defoliation of buckthorn in Kenosha county.

LEPIDOPTERA SEASON SUMMARY CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED

1994 Wisconsin Lepidoptera records are wanted for inclusion in the season summary which is to appear in the next W. E. S. Newsletter. Things to report include rare or unusual species occurring in your area, unusually early or late occurrences, unusual abundance or scarcity, rearing or host plant data, flowers utilized by adults, or any other observations of interest. Please indicate locality, county and date of capture or observation, and also note if records are sight only, or documented by voucher specimens or photos. Please send reports by January 15 to: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562.

OHIO WILDLIFE REGULATIONS CHANGED FOR LEPIDOPTERISTS Eric Metzler

(From THE OHIO LEPIDOPTERIST Volume 16, Number 2, June 1994, reprinted with permission.)

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Wildlife, in cooperation with The Ohio Lepidopterists, announced a change in the Ohio Wildlife Regulations to allow Lepidopterists to retain specimens of butterflies and moths declared to be endangered in Ohio. The announcement recognizes the close cooperation of the Division of Wildlife and The Ohio Lepidopterists, who provided the data that contributed to the Division of Wildlife's understanding of imperiled species in Ohio. The change in the Ohio Wildlife Regulations was made to encourage members of The Ohio Lepidopterists to continue their research in Ohio.

In making the announcement, Richard B. Pierce, Chief of the Division of Wildlife, said "I consider the information provided to the ODNR, Division of Wildlife by The Ohio Lepidopterists, on the status of moth and butterfly populations, to be vital in managing and protecting this important segment of Ohio's wildlife. It certainly is in the Division's best interest to facilitate the collection of information by those who are qualified and motivated to do so. A second key factor is ensuring that there is close cooperation in the sharing of data and development of protective strategies."

Ohio's Division of Wildlife and the Ohio Lepidopterists society continue to be leaders in recognizing the mutual benefits of working together. It is not easy to chart a course that appears to contradict popular thinking pertinent to protecting endangered species, but the rules of protection, that were not developed with insects in mind, can be recreated to encourage participation by the persons most capable of monitoring populations of butterflies and moths, lepidopterists. Although it is not easy to recast long held ideas, openness to new ideas, while recognizing the sincerely held beliefs of traditional thinking, can lead to a new way of doing things.

The new rules for Ohio took effect on 15 May 1994. The revised language states: "It shall be lawful for any persons to collect and possess the following wild animals for their own personal use. It shall be unlawful to sell, barter, trade or offer for sale any wild animal, or parts there of, listed in this paragraph." This language retains traditional prohibitions against commerce in endangered species, without punishing lepidopterists who have a history of sharing valuable information. The paragraph proceeds to list most of Ohio's endangered butterflies and moths. The change does not effect federally listed species.

"We've made a lot of progress toward conservation of lepidopterans in Ohio," said Pierce. "There is still a tremendous amount of work still to be done. With our united efforts, I am confident that progress will continue to be made." The action by the Division of Wildlife to modify their regulations is part of the partnership.

The Ohio Lepidopterists society conducted a six year Comprehensive Survey of Moths and Butterflies in Ohio for the ODNR, Division of Wildlife. During the survey, which ran from 1986 through 1992, The Ohio Lepidopterists accumulated nearly 100,000 individual records of butterflies and moths in Ohio. The Ohio Lepidopterists discovered that several species were in danger of being extirpated from Ohio due to threats to critical habitats. Two major publications, *Butterflies and Skippers of Ohio* and *The Owlet Moths of Ohio*, also came from the six year effort. As part of the survey, The Ohio Lepidopterists also own and curate a synoptic collection of Ohio's butterflies and moths at The Ohio State Museum of Biological Diversity.

WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LIST - 1994

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

